# Converted Catholic Magazine

EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANITY
THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN ITALY

The History of Father Tiso

INSIDE FRANCO'S JAILS

ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP EXCOMMUNICATED

WAS F.D.R. ASSASSINATED?

September, 1945

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## THE CONVERTED CATHOLIC MAGAZINE

EDITED BY FORMER ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTS
"When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."—Luke xxii:32.

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# The Converted Catholic Magazine

Edited by Former Catholic Priests

FOR THE REFORMATION OF ROMAN CATHOLICISM

Vol. 6 (New Series)

SEPTEMBER, 1945

No. 7

## Evangelical Christianity

EVER BEFORE has there been need as today for a unified effort of all Protestants to meet the challenge of the growing power of the Roman Catholic church in America. Only by a union of the forces of Protestantism can a sure "no" be given to the question

lately raised: "Can Catholicism win America?".

A cohesion of Protestant forces, however, depends upon a positive, constructive basis of spiritual unity. Any attempt to weld them together by corporate organization will fail, since Protestantism began as a protest against the forced hierarchical ordering of political and spiritual forces by the Roman Catholic church itself. Protestantism was united and vigorous, was a coordinated fighting force that won glorious and lasting victories, when all sections of it stood firmly rooted in the positive assertion of the saving message of the Gospel. Martin Luther emphasized this when he flung his challenge into the face of the Emperor Charles V and told him: "Here I stand and I cannot do otherwise! So help me God!"

The origin of Protestantism was in its essential characteristic as an Evangelical movement; its name developed mistakenly around a local specific protest action. Its power and motivation, on the other hand, sprang from its positive re-assertion of the Evangel—the proclamation of the "good news" of the all-sufficiency of the saving work of Jesus Christ.

Today the words "Catholic," "Roman Catholic," "Protestant," "Orthodox," have been twisted out of their true meaning. "Roman Catholic" is the greatest misnomer of them all, a contradiction in terms, since the word "catholic" or "universal" is contradicted by the nationalistic qualification "Roman." The same can be said of "Anglo-Catholic." Protestants don't "protest" any more, and the "Orthodox" church teaches many unorthodox practices.

Christians are Christians only if they firmly and fully believe in and practice the Gospel of Christ, that is, His Evangelical teaching. It is significant that Protestants of all denominations are known, and hated, by the Roman Catholics in South American countries by the name of "Evangelicals," since Evangelical Christianity is in direct opposition to Roman Catholicism. Upon this one foundation of Evangelical faith, Protestants of all denominations can join in a united front, in America and throughout the world.

### EDITORIAL NOTES AND COMMENTS

#### THE POPE'S APOLOGY

THE PITIFUL EXCUSES for the Vatican's concordat with Hitler, made by Pope Pius XII in his speech to the College of Cardinals last June 2, scarcely call for comment. Never was the head of the Roman Catholic church placed in such an embarrassing position. With Mussolini dead in the streets of Milan, and Hitler's corpse fairly certainly charred out of recognition underneath his blasted chancellery in Berlin and his regime smashed to bits by the conquering armies of the United States, Britain, and Russia, Pope Pius XII found it expedient and safe to condemn National Socialism by name for the first time. Even a child could see that he was frantically mending very broken fences.

The Pope's speech merits consideration, however, for the following reasons:

1. His admission of the Vatican's collaboration with Hitler by means of the concordat, which he himself signed jointly with the despicable Von Papen. He had lived in Germany "for over twelve years—twelve of the best of our mature years—," he said. He was there when Hitler first published Mein Kampf, and was known as "the best informed man in the Reich," according to Viscount d'Abernon, Britain's first ambassador to the Weimar Republic. "We were personally in close contact with its [Germany's] most representa-

tive men," the Pope admitted. The Vatican's negotiations with the Weimar Republic, he explained, did not give "adequate guarantee or assurance" for the Catholic church's "faith, rights or liberty of action." Then he continued: "In such conditions the quarantees could not be secured except through a settlement having the solemn form of a concordat with the central government of the [Nazi] Reich." In other words, he admitted that the Vatican from the beginning favored Hitler's Nazi regime rather than the constitutional government of the German Republic. He signed the concordat with Hitler less than six months after he came to power and never made any move to revoke it. The Pope also admitted that he knew of all the cruelties and atrocities carried on up till the very end by Hitler's henchmen. Yet he never uttered a word by way of reproach or condemnation until Hitler was reported safely dead.

2. His failure to say anything in condemnation of Mussolini's Fascism in Italy and his atrocities against the helpless Ethiopians. Nor did he utter any pious outery against Franco's Fascism in Spain where an estimated 400,000 Loyalist prisoners are still kept in concentration camps. If the Pope were really sincere in his condemnation of Fascist barbarities, why does he not, even at this late date, place the Catholic church on our side against similar barbarities being continued

against us by the Japanese? He still retains General Ken Harada in the Vatican as the Ambassador of the Emperor of Japan.

We can expect that the Pope will also wait until Japan has been completely defeated before he will tell us that he is against the banditry of Japan. If Nazism was wrong after its defeat, it was equally wrong when the Pope signed the Vatican's concordat with Hitler. The crimes of Japan and Franco's Spain likewise are as wrong today as they will be after those countries have been freed from Fascist domination.

## NO VATICAN AMBASSADOR NEEDED

THE FOLLOWING are among the many sound reasons why there is no longer any reason for keeping Myron C. Taylor or anyone else as U. S. Ambassador to the Vatican: (1) There is no need now to keep America out of the war, since the war in Europe has been won. (2) The Vatican is no longer needed by the State Department as a Continental "listening post," since all of Europe is now open to our diplomatic representatives. (3) Vatican City is really no longer a sovereign state, since it was the creation solely of Mussolini and his regime-both now dead. And (4) the Vatican is opposed to our basic principles of complete religious freedom and separation of Church and State.

The best reason of all is that everything possible should be done to keep religion out of American politics, and to stop all secret communications between the Vatican and the White House.

#### WAS F.D.R. ASSASSINATED?

CONFIRMATION OF THE VATICAN'S policy of stirring up a war between the United States and Russia was plainly evident in the accusation of Bishop James A. Griffin of the Roman Catholic diocese of Springfield, Illinois, that President Roosevelt's death was the result of foul play by the Russians.

According to an Associated Press dispatch of April 17, Bishop Griffin frankly stated that Roosevelt was "a casualty of Russia." "The perfidy of Russia is notorious," he continued. "No man can deal with the Red elements and expect to survive."

Bishop Griffin's accusation was repeated and enlarged upon by the Catholic press. Our Sunday Visitor of June 3 gave it banner headlines and in a lengthy front-page article said that the record written into President Roosevelt's death certificate in the courthouse at Warm Springs, Georgia, that he had died of cerebral hemorrhage, was false. "In a court-house somewhere in Georgia there's a death record. Across it is scribbled the phrase 'cerebral hemorrhage.' Things like that don't 'just happen,'" the article stated bluntly.

How serious this effort was to aid Hitler's last desperate attempt to snatch victory out of defeat by splitting the Allies, can be judged from the fact that at that very moment our American armies had reached the Elbe and were facing the Russians who were blasting their way into Berlin from the east. Whether true or not, had Bishop Griffin's accusation been widely believed

by the American people and our American armies in Europe that their President had been killed by Russian connivance, the disastrous effect at that crucial moment in the history of the world can well be imagined.

## AN AMERICAN CATHOLIC CHURCH?

R OMAN CATHOLIC AUTHORIthat Dr. Frank B. Robinson of "Psychiana" fame recently announced in Editor and Publisher that he had been made a full-fledged Catholic bishop with the title of "Bishop of Idaho-American Catholic Church." It must be admitted that "Doc" Robinson is as much, and even more, of a Catholic bishop as any in the Roman Catholic church, since he can trace his "succession" from no less than three recognized sources: the Melkite (R.C.) church, the Old Catholic church (Jansenist) and the American Catholic church (Villatte). He is thus two jumps ahead of any Roman Catholic bishop in the U.S.

The Vatican ever on the alert to the danger of an "American" Catholic church that might sever the allegiance of its adherents in the United States, may have cause to worry about "Doc" Robinson's new venture, in view of the enormous following he has built up as head of "Psychiana." The efforts and hopes of the Vatican are now centered on the preservation and further increase of its power and wealth in America. Rumors of the formation of national Catholic churches by Ro-

man Catholic priests and bishops have also come from Brazil, Yugoslavia, and Czechoslovakia, and may increase in view of the Vatican's loss of prestige in so much of Europe.

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#### ROMAN CATHOLICS, WAKE UP!

THE TRIAL in Moscow of Father Leopold Braun, the only Roman Catholic priest in Russia, on charges of assaulting a Russian workman, has caused a stir all over the world. The Russians also suspected him of being the "eyes and ears" of the Vatican in the Russian capital and of sending secret reports to Rome.

When freedom of religion was reestablished in the Soviet Union, this priest asked the Soviet officials if this freedom would extend to the Roman Catholic church, especially in those countries under U.S.S.R. control. They hastened to assure the priest that it did, and that among the vast privileges allowed to the Catholic clergy and people would be the right "to elect their own hierarchy which includes bishops and cardinals." This greatly incensed Father Braun who protested to the Soviet officials that the selection of bishops and cardinals in the Roman church "is a prerogative of the Vatican itself" and that "the Catholic clergy depends entirely on the Holy See." The curt answer he received was, "Things will have to be changed!"

It would indeed make a wondrous difference in Catholic countries of Europe if this change could be brought about so that Catholic priests and people could democratically elect their bishops. It would be even more wonderful if this democratic procedure could be established in the Roman Catholic church in America.

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#### ROMAN CATHOLIC STATISTICS

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC Church now claims a total membership of 23,963,671 in the United States, Alaska and the Hawaiian Islands, according to the latest, 1945, edition of the Official Catholic Directory. There are 159 bishops and archbishops—including one cardinal, 22 archbishops and 136 bishops. The number of dioceses now total exactly 100, an increase of three since last year. Indianapolis was raised to the rank of an archdiocese, making the total number of archdioceses now 21. The number of priests is said to be 38,451—of which 25,567 are "secular" or ordinary parish priests, and 12,884 religious order priests. Nuns or sisters number 138,079, and brothers 6,594.

The significant fact revealed in these new statistics of the Catholic church is that infant baptisms decreased in the past year by 11,786. Deaths, on the other hand, increased by 2,456. Claim is made for 84,908 "converts" from other religions, a decrease of 5,914 from the number claimed in 1944. Yet, according to the Catholic Register of June 10, 1945, an over-all increase of 543,970 in the total Catholic population is claimed for 1945. But no mention is made of the large number of Roman Catholics lost in the year to Protestantism, and the far greater number that cease each vear from active membership. It is well known that little faith can be placed in the claims made year after year of increase in the Roman Catholic population.

#### FOR THE PROTESTANTS OF BOSTON

THE FOLLOWING, from the Baptist Watchman-Examiner, should help Protestants in Boston to wake up:

"Archbishop Cushing, of the Roman Catholic Church, is 'going to town' since his election. He has an intelligent press agent, and there is seldom a day when he is not featured in the Boston papers. Since he came to office, we have discovered the city of Boston is 70 per cent Catholic. At the opening of the Red Cross drive, the three principal speakers were Archbishop Cushing, Governor Tobin, and Mayor Kerrigan, all Catholics. The efficiency of Archbishop Cushing is a challenge to Protestantism in the State. We have no Protestant leader who is his equal."

It is hardly possible that Massachusetts and the rest of New England have not a Protestant leader the equal of Archbishop Cushing of Boston. Lack of a fair share of publicity for Protestants in the secular press seems to us to be the real reason why the Roman Catholic archbishop of Boston is made to appear the only active church leader in the very home of the Pilgrim Fathers. Protestants need unity and organization to prevent the Catholic hierarchy from dominating the press.

▶ 'THE WAY,' published at Wheaton, III., by the Augusta Carlson Foundation for the spread of the Gospel, is planning to expand its services to Christian people after the pattern of 'Time' and 'Newsweek' by digesting articles from some 300 missionary and Christian magazines.

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"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you."—John 15:7.

## THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN ITALY

THE WAR has tested religion in many lands—and found it wanting. To many millions of young men who, in the heat of battle, have looked death straight in the face and beyond into eternity, the copybook sermons they have heard in church, the lofty but unreal phrases of their preachers, the useless ritual, medals, scapulars, and superstitions, proved of no value in that awful moment. Maybe they, who have been tested in the face of death, know now what true religion is like. Our hope is that they will demand and get it when they return home.

Nowhere has the lack of true religion been so evident as in Italy, where the Roman Catholic religion can be seen for what it really is. Many Protestant GI's have seen it and have written home to say how glad they are not to have been born Roman Catholics. War, which breaks down morals in every country, has shown very clearly in Italy with how thin a veneer even of respectability the religion of the church of Rome covers the corruption of human nature. Against widespread prostitution, drunkenness and similar excesses, intensified by the ravages of war and near-starvation, the Italian people have nothing in their religion to sustain them but its faith in statues and relics, its "miraculous" Madonnas and the absolutions of priests.

A vivid description of religion in war-ravaged Italy is given in a short article in *The American Mercury* magazine for last June, by Gene Rea, special war correspondent in Italy for *Il Progresso Italiano*. Although written to show that even Communism "cannot take away their religion" from the Italian people, his description of the kind

of religion they practice shows how completely lacking it is in the elements of true Christian morality. "Even though poverty and prostitution are taking such a dreadful toll of Italy's women, religion has not yet left them," he says, and recounts the following to substantiate it:

"In Naples a very attractive girl who had made her living for the past two years by entertaining men, absolutely refused even to speak to any man every first Friday of the month and on every holyday."

He further relates how the priests in Italy regard the depravity of its women as follows:

"A priest in Rome told me that the sinful life of Italy's women today was one of its greatest shames. Yet, he said, he knew that thousands of girls went to confession and told the priests all their sins."

This kind of religion, Rea boasts, is something that neither war nor Communism can take from the people. Statues of the Virgin Mary and crucifixes adorn the walls of Communist headquarters in many cities. In the Communist mayor's office at Caivano near Naples, a huge crucifix hung on the wall flanked by a portrait of Joseph Stalin. Attendance at church services is small, he admits, "but there isn't a single moment of the day or late evening hours that one doesn't find at least a score of people lighting a candle at the foot of some saint, the Virgin, or Christ, praying for some favor." The people will kneel in the dust as their favorite statue is carried in procession through the streets, and even those who have lately joined the Communist Party bow down before the statue and "pin their lire notes on its clothing."

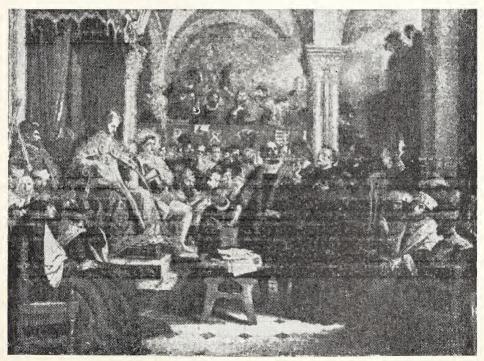
A letter from a British Protestant soldier in Italy to *The Churchman's* Magazine for March 1945, confirms all that is said above. He writes as follows:

"My period of service in Italy is now somewhat more than one year, and during that time I have had the opportunity of studying at first hand the effects of Romanism on the Italian people, their reaction to religion and their mode of life. What I have seen has nauseated me and left me dismayed. To see, as I have seen, almost the entire population of a medium-sized town lining the roadside to witness the passage of a procession (composed of priests, old men, women and children) carrying a statue of the Virgin Mary helps one to realize the awfulness of the grip that is maintained by the church of Rome on its credulous people. One moment they are laughing and joking, and the next quiet and kneeling before the statue, crossing themselves as it passes. After the act of obeisance

has been performed, they disperse rapidly, laughing and chattering as if nothing had happened. What belief is this that demands abject fear of images as its chief requisite?"

This is indeed a sad picture—of a people deprived for centuries of the light of the true Gospel, pinning all their hopes still on the beggarly elements of superstitious practices and deceitful religious teaching.

It was to be hoped that the Italian people would have learned a lesson from the sufferings that Fascism brought upon their country; that they would have forsaken the degrading practices of the religion of Rome and turned to Christ who says: "Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy-laden. I will give you rest."



"HERE I STAND AND I CANNOT DO OTHERWISE! SO HELP ME GOD!"

Thus Martin Luther flung down his challenge before the Catholic Emperor Charles V and his court in defense of Evangelical Christianity. Would that Protestants today were as fearless and positive in asserting the saving doctrine of Christ as Luther and the Protestants of his time!

#### THERE IS A LAND

By Rev. Dr. Walter W. Montano

[Dr. Montano is a former Roman Catholic priest and is now an Evangelical missionary in Peru, of which this article treats.]

THERE IS A LAND where the majority of the people have never heard the Gospel and know very little about God. Their conception of Him is that of an old man with a long white beard who is very tired, physically weak, and who is far off and aloof. He is an unapproachable personage, given to meting out punishment but never love. For these reasons they fear God as a tyrant from whom they shy away and try to appease by superstitious practices.

There is a land where many of the people know that Christ died nineteen hundred years ago, and display him as a corpse on a cross. They worship a dead Christ but have no realization of the wonders and glory of the risen Christ, our eternally living and powerful Lord.

There is a land where millions of Indians live under most pitiful conditions. Their religion is a mixture of paganism and Catholicism. This means that while they worship the sun, moon, and other objects of nature, they also kneel before wooden crosses made by themselves. These actually signify to them their Heavenly Father, and they have no conception whatever of the true meaning of the Cross. How vividly I remember an experience that I had while working in Central Peru. There was an Indian woman standing in the middle of a country road, with arms outstretched, before a wooden cross. When she had finished her prayer, I asked her in her native tongue, Quechua, what she was doing. She answered, "This (pointing to the wayside cross) is my God and I am worshiping him." My heart ached when I heard her reply and I explained to her that these pieces of wood, so crudely put together, were not God. I told her as simply as I could the meaning of the Cross, and before I left her a light came into her face and she said, "I shall now worship the true and living Christ and not this wooden cross."

There is a land where the people talk glibly about religion, even using the name of God, not in swearing, but simply as expletives instead of "Oh," or "My." Yet they know very little of the real Gospel. Wicked people, thieves, and prostitutes think that the only thing needed for worship and expiation for sin is to wear rosaries, bow before images, make the sign of the cross, or wear medals with images of the saints attached.

Here is one of many examples of the moral and spiritual condition of the people. A few years ago the police were sent to track down a dangerous criminal. After a long search he was found and sent to jail, but before giving him the prison uniform, he was sent to take a bath, and to the surprise of the warden it was discovered that this man had seven images tattooed on his body. The Virgin Mary of the Rosary was on one arm, the Virgin of Carmel on the other. On one side of his chest was a cross and on the other the Sacred Heart of Jesus; one of his legs bore the image of a rooster, while upon the other was the image of a horse. And then, as though

all this were not sufficient, he bore on his back the sinister image of the devil. When the warden asked the criminal the reason for all these images, he replied: "The images of the Virgin Mary give me strength to fight the police, while the cross and the Heart of Jesus on my chest make me invulnerable to their bullets. The rooster awakens me when the police draw near and the horse enables me to escape them."

"But what need have you of the image of the devil?" the warden asked.

"That," he said, "is my very last resource. If all the other images fail to protect me, I ask the devil to make me invisible in order that the police cannot find me."

"But how is it then, with all this," asked the warden, "that you have fal-



The author, Dr. Montano, as a Dominican priest before his conversion

len into the hands of the law?"

"Sir," said the criminal, "you know that when God does not choose to save you, neither can the devil do so."

There is a land where religion is imposed upon the people by force. It is not a personal experience. You know what the Inquisition means. Thus it is in Latin America. A person must profess the beliefs of the Catholic church, whether or not be believes them; otherwise, he is excommunicated. This means no fellowship of services, no rites, and eventually no heaven.

As in the early days of the church, true Christianity in Latin America is confessed in secret by friends who, when alone with you, are favorable to its principles, but deny it when they speak in public. It is confessed by those who admire its faith but who, when confronted with the challenge to defend it in public, fail to do so and even join in persecuting its preachers. What the Congress of Peru did recently is typical of what all Latin-American countries would do under similar circumstances. Many Congressmen told us in personal conversation that they believed in religious liberty; some said that they had a Bible; many spoke against the priests; some even admitted that the Protestant religion was the only religion worth accepting. There were others who recognized that Protestantism did a wonderful work for the Indians. But when they had to act in public, they voted for the Catholic church, deciding that "because the majority of the country was Catholic, the Catholic church should be protected by the State."

Soon afterwards, the Archbishop of Lima published a Pastoral letter denouncing the Protestants as criminals, "because they steal the Catholic faith from the people and teach them the Protestant faith instead." As a result the peaceful atmosphere of our churches has given place to the noise of stones thrown by fanatical Catholic people sent by the priests. Persecution is increasing over the country. The highest political authority in the main province of the Central Sierra ordered all those under him not to allow any Protestant propaganda, while on the other hand he gave full freedom to Catholics to attack Protestants.

All this not only justifies the work of the Protestant missionary in Latin America; it also presents a tremendous challenge to all of us who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and have accepted Him as our Saviour.

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#### FRANCO AND THE FREEMASONS

DICTATOR FRANCO was widely publicized in the press of the United States as reportedly releasing 95 per cent of Spanish Freemasons from jail. These men had been incarcerated, according to a New York Times dispatch of June 6 from Madrid, "solely on proof of Masonic affiliation," and under Franco's "Law for the Suppression of Masonry and Communism."

This 'generous' gesture of the Spanish dictator was recorded as something in his favor, and no mention was made of the years of cruel suffering endured by his victims, nor was any question raised of appropriate punishment being meted out to Franco and his clique as among the original and most outstanding Fascist war criminals.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Ask and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."—Matt. 7:7.

## ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP EXCOMMUNICATED

BISHOP DUARTE, Roman Catholic Bishop of Maura in Brazil, who for some time has been challenging the church of Rome to reform its ritual and teachings and to allow priests to marry, was excommunicated by the Pope this past July 6. The Archbishop of Rio de Janeiro, on instructions from the Vatican, had the decree of excommunication read in all the churches of Brazil. According to a dispatch from Rio de Janeiro in the N. Y. Times of July 7, Bishop Duarte was accused of "violating canon law tenets by raising the banner of rebellion and preaching discord to the faithful."

Ever since Brazil entered the war on the side of the Allies, Bishop Duarte has been active in trying to counteract the pro-Fascist activities of Roman Catholic priests in his country. He suffered persecution from the church as a consequence, and the above-mentioned dispatch in the N. Y. Times states that "he has been called a Communist and was once questioned by the police." The dispatch goes on to say: "He has been championing the abolition of celibacy. Priests, he has said, should be married and raise families. He has been condemning the present status of priests as immoral." It is common knowledge that the celibacy of priests in Brazil is a mere pretense.

On the day he was excommunicated, Bishop Duarte was interviewed by a reporter of the newspaper *Globo* in Sao Paulo and declared that the "Brazilian Catholic Church" which he had founded had many followers and would continue to fight "Roman church Fascism." He also said that he would continue to use the insignia of his episco-

pal rank but would no longer be known as Bishop of Maura, "because now I am the Bishop of Rio de Janeiro."

It is our earnest prayer that Bishop Duarte's excommunication will further strengthen him to lead Brazilian Catholic priests and people into the light of the true Gospel, and that under his leadership all the people of Latin-American countries may enlist under the banner of Evangelical Christianity.

## NUNS HELPED HITLER'S MURDERS

THE FOLLOWING Reuter dispatch from Kaufbeuren in Bavaria was published in the N. Y. Times of July 5, 1945:

"A wholesale extermination plant in which hundreds of men, women and children—all German—allegedly mentally defective or physically deformed, were killed by intramuscular injections or slow starvation was operating here until two days ago, it was disclosed today. . . The plant functioned in this town, sixty miles southeast of Munich, and virtually every inhabitant of Kaufbeuren was aware of the fact that human beings were being used as guinea pigs and systematically butchered.

"The perpetrators or passive collaborators were . . . Germans who were not Nazi partymembers. Some were Catholic sisters and nurses. The chief nurse confessed that she had murdered approximately 210 children . . . Another sister confessed with a stony grin that she had poisoned 'at least thirty to forty persons.'"

Catholic Bavaria was the home of Nazism and Hitler's headquarters were in its principal city of Munich. Munich is also the See of Cardinal Faulhaber who, according to Karl Heiden in *Der Fuehrer*, made possible the continuance of Hitler's main propaganda organ, the daily newspaper *Der Voelkischer Beobachter*.

#### THE HISTORY OF FATHER TISO

By J. J. Murphy

On December 12, 1941, Josef Tiso, Roman Catholic priest and monsignor, as President of Hitler's puppet-state of Slovakia, declared war on the United States. The following article gives a factual description of Tiso and his Vatican-supported Nazi regime.—Editors.

FAROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST became ruler of the United States, what would happen to our country? The Roman Catholic church promptly answers, "Nothing to be afraid of. First of all, the question is fantastic and ridiculous, for the church would never allow one of its clergymen to rule a country. Besides, even if she did, the priest would solemnly fulfill his oath to uphold the constitution and government, the same as any other good citizen."

This Catholic plea of self-defense sounds logical and reasonable. Unfortunately, however, this glamorous theory trips over actual facts. To answer the question above we do not have to rely on speculation. Current history provides us with cold facts. Twice since the first World War, Roman Catholic prelates have slipped from behind the curtain and openly ruled two countries right in the strategic center of Europe. The first of these Vatican prelates was Monsignor Ignaz Seipel. How he wheedled himself into power over republican Austria only to destroy its democracy and establish Fascism is shown in my pamphlet, Clerical Fascism in Austria.1 A thumbnail description of Msgr. Seipel's insidious work of destruction, with full emphasis on his jesuitical deceit, is given on page 492 of Betrayal in Central Europe, a book by the distinguished journalist G. E. R. Gedye who lived in Vienna during those fateful years:

"How softly trod Msgr. Seipel when I first went to Austria in 1925—how persuasive his slogans. 'True' democracy was what he wanted, 'freedom of the streets,' disarmament of 'party armies.' And what he achieved was the 'Bloody 15th of July' in 1927, the Dollfuss and Schuschnigg dictatorships, the destruction of the opposition press and Parliament, the bombardments of February 1934. Had he mentioned these in 1925 as his aims, he would have been overthrown in 24 hours."

The second Roman Catholic prelate to seize supreme power in a democratic country in recent years was Father Josef Tiso, a Roman Catholic priest who was later made a Right Reverend Monsignor and given honorary membership in the Papal household, after he accomplished his assigned task of destroying the Czechoslovakian republic. He ruled Slovakia as Hitler's puppet, while the Vatican beamed its approval.

Who is Msgr. Tiso? How did the Vatican maneuver him into power? What type of character does the Vatican choose for playing a leading role in its drama of power politics? How well did he merit Hitler's intimate approval? What did the Vatican paper, Osservatore Romano, say of him? It is the purpose of this article to answer these questions from facts of recent history. It is regrettable that far more damning evidence was burned by the

<sup>1</sup> Listed for sale on the inside of the back cover of this magazine.

Nazis or lies hidden in the vaults of the Vatican. Even the press of this country has done its best to hide from the public Msgr. Tiso's high standing in Vatican circles. It has left everyone under the impression that he is not even a priest by generally referring to him merely as "Dr. Tiso."

#### TRAITOR TO ENSLAVED SLOVAKIA

Slovakia, the native land of Josef Tiso, is larger than Belgium. Previous to its liberation by the Allies in the last World War and its incorporation into the Czechoslovakian republic, Slovakia was for centuries an impoverished, illiterate Catholic land dominated and exploited by the kings of Catholic Hungary with the complete approval of the Vatican. As in other priest-ridden countries, such as Portugal and Spain, a deliberate plan was carried out to keep the masses groveling in ignorance.

"During the Hungarian regime there was no Slovak library, no Slovak university, nor even a Slovak secondary school in Slovakia." (2)

Slovakia with its illiterate masses was an ideal spot for Vatican power politics. As in Ireland, the Vatican allowed the lower clergy to sponsor movements for national liberation, but kept them from ever attaining success by double-crossing them through its own diplomats and the native hierarchy who worked hand-in-glove with the ruling monarch. This served two purposes: It convinced the illiterate masses that the Catholic church was the champion of its liberation, and turned their fervent nationalism into chains that bound them still closer to the church. At the same time, these movements for national liberation, completely under church control, were used as a club over the heads of the Hungarian kings and the Austrian emperors to hold them in line and to put more and more State powers into the hands of church authorities. The latest of these Catholic Slovak movements for liberation from Hungary was known after its priest-founder as the Hlinka movement. It was reactionary and anti-Semitic. Fundamentally it was not anti-Hungarian at all. It was an agitation group, led on by will-o'-the-wisps, that could be turned to whatever political purpose suited the Vatican at a given moment. Before World War I it was anti-Hungarian, for reasons mentioned above. After



MSGR. IGNAZ SEIPEL

'The Merciless Cardinal,'—noted for his talent for intrigue and single-handed devotion to advancing the political interests of the Church.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Page 74 of *Czechoslovakia*, *The Unknown Country*, edited by Nicholas G. Balint, published by Inter-Allied Publications, New York, for distribution by the Czechoslovak Government Information Service.

Slovakia was liberated and became part of the Czechoslovakian republic, Father Hlinka continued to agitate and turned his highly organized minority against the Prague government, relying for outside support on the Hungarian dictatorship, traditional enemy of Slovak nationalism. G. E. Gedye in his book mentioned above (p. 409) says:

"True, only 30% of the population stood behind the fanatic village priest, Father Hlinka, in his independence program, but . . . Father Hlinka's voice sounded twice as loud through the everready Hungarian megaphone."

Father Hlinka's agitation against Prague was part of well-planned Vatican strategy. Rome hated the democratic government of Czechoslovakia because it was a liberal government founded by two distinguished Freemasons and patriots, Thomas Masaryk and Eduard Benes. It hated it even more because it had launched an intensive educational campaign that established in Slovakia 3,106 libraries with 20 million books and 3,377 schools ranging from grammar schools to colleges. Moreover, a weak, independent Slovakia, lopped off from Czechoslovakia, could be more easily maneuvered in the Vatican plans to re-establish the Germanic, Holy Roman Empire.'

Father Tiso, who succeeded Father Hlinka, in the leadership of the Hlinka movement and achieved his goal by union with Pan-Germania, was the ideal type of Clerical to lead a treacherous movement. He was a born traitor to everyone but his church. In the book, Hungary's Alibi, he is called "the primitive quisling." Johannes Steel calls him "a turncoat with a rich background of professional experience." Current Biography, says: "When Vidkun Quisling was still an obscure turncoat, Monsignor Josef Tiso was already

a full-fledged, high-ranking traitor."3

Josef Tiso's loyalty to the Catholic church and his treachery toward all other interests were obviously noticed by his ecclesiastical superiors during the many years of his training for the priesthood. This was all to the good, as far as the church was concerned. Treachery is the blood-brother of opportunism and compromise. And political opportunism is the trump card of Vatican diplomacy, as a distinguished journalist implied when he said: "The Vatican has always been prepared to make every necessary political compromise, so long as such compromises would assure certain advantages for the Catholic Church."

In fact, it was Tiso's betrayal of his own people and his servility to the Hungarian conquerors that first attracted him to the Hungarian bishop who sponsored his education for the priesthood. As Current Biography, 1943, remarks (p. 764) about Tiso:

"An overambitious youth, he learned early in his life that bootlicking was a key to success. In Slovakia this meant servility to the Magyars (Hungarians) and the opportunistic young Tiso posed as a fawning, rabid pro-Hungarian."

It should not be overlooked that Tiso's servility to the Hungarian tyrants of his country was wholly in accord with the teaching of the church to whose welfare he had devoted his treachery. The Catholic catechism that was taught in his time in Austria-Hungary had the political purpose of keeping subject peoples, like the Slovaks, under the heel of the emperor. It read in part as follows:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Hungary's Alibi by W. S. Faber, p. 3; Men Behind the War, by Johannes Steel, p. 400; Current Biography, 1943 volume, p. 763.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Coming Struggle for Peace, by Andre Visson, New York, 1944, page 175.

"Q. How should subjects behave toward their sovereigns?

A.—Subjects should behave toward their sovereigns exactly as slaves toward their masters."<sup>5</sup>

In recruiting candidates for its political ministry and diplomatic corps the Roman Catholic church is interested in their Machiavellian qualifications and not their morality. This is openly implied in the following quotation from the above-mentioned edition of Current Biography (p. 764) where, after telling that Tiso was ordained to the priesthood in 1909 and made secretary to the Bishop of Nitra, it adds:

"At the latter's request, he was appointed religious instructor at a girls' secondary school in Nitra. Accusations of misconduct by the parents of the girls... in no way impeded Tiso's steady promotion, nor did this earn the disapprobation of his bishop, who appointed him chaplain to the prosperous village of Banovce. Here as in Nitra, he continued his anti-Slovak activities. He ... became a columnist for the rabble-rousing Hungarian weekly, Nyitrai Szemle, a counterpart of the American (Father Coughlin's) Social Justice, which specialized in Slovak-baiting."

During World War I Father Tiso, under guise of a chaplain in the Austrian-Hungarian armies, ferreted out pro-democratic Slovak soldiers who were unenthusiastic about fighting for their oppressors. "Even after the overthrow of Austria-Hungary Tiso continued to serve his Hungarian masters. . . . It was only after the united Czech and Slovak national armies chased the Hungarians out of Slovakia that Tiso suddenly discovered that he had been a Slovak nationalist right along. In no time at all [with church backing] he was on top of the band wagon. . . With the birth of the Czechoslovak Republic, the opportunistic Tiso joined the Slovak People's Party, a conservative, Catholic political organization whose program was reactionary. The People's Party vigorously expounded Slovak grievances; its leader was Msgr. Andreas Hlinka.''6

#### FALSE-FRONT STRATEGY

To help Father Tiso establish himself politically as a Slovak nationalist. after having been an Hungarian lackey all his life, the Catholic church not only gave him additional honors, but supplied him powers that gave him a whiphand over fellow clergymen, who might otherwise have been tempted to oppose him. He was named Dean of the clergy for his district and Chief Inspector of the Clergy. The mumbo-jumbo of church approval won him instant approval from his illiterate fellow Slovakians, whom he had consistently double-crossed. From then on he was a political success. As Current Biography remarks, he won a seat to the National Parliament in Prague that same year, even though he had failed in every previous election. The same book (p. 764) goes on to say:

"In Parliament Tiso assured the Czech deputies that he was a staunch believer in unity, while to his constituents at home he delivered speeches berating the Czechs. The artifice worked, and in 1926, when a coalition government was formed, Tiso received the portfolio of Minister of Health. His closest political friend in those years was one Bela Tuka, who was convicted in 1929 as an Hungarian spy. Although Tiso was generally believed to have been implicated in the scandal, he managed to keep his tracks covered."

This crafty deal was the old jesuitical trick of playing both ends against the middle. Father Tiso played the Slo-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Quoted from *Contemporary Italy*, by Count Carlo Sforza, a Roman Catholic, page 64; New York, 1944.

<sup>6</sup> Current Biography, 1943, page 764.

vaks against the Czechs, all Czechoslovakia against Hungary, and eventually twisted them all into the hands of a militarist Germany, that Pope Leo XIII had insisted must become the temporal arm of the Catholic church.<sup>7</sup>

The Pan-German reactionaries, who brought Hitler to power, believed that Czechoslovakia had no right to independent existence, and from the beginning plotted its destruction. Their hatred was equalled only by that of the Vatican. Andre Visson in *The Coming Struggle for Peace* (p. 172) says:

"In the first years after World War I, the two main obstacles to the realization of the Vatican's plans in Central Europe were Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia . . . It did not have any sympathy for either of these states."

With Father Tiso in power and the military strength of the Catholic Hlinka Guard constantly increasing, plans for the destruction of Czechoslovakia rapidly matured, especially after the concordat between Hitler and the Vatican was signed in 1933. The first step toward this goal was the securing of self-government for Slovakia by Father Tiso, who acted on orders from Hitler, according to the New York Times of Oct. 26, 1939. It followed by six months the death of Msgr. Hlinka and the full assumption of power by Father Tiso. The events of 1938-39 in Czechoslovakia are telescoped into a few words by Current Biography (p. 764):

"The Munich betrayal opened new vistas to the ambitious Tiso. He forced Prague to grant permission for the formation of an independent Slovak Government in Bratislava [the capital] within the jurisdiction of the Federal Republic. In October, 1938, Tiso assumed the Premiership of the new government and, tongue in cheek, took the oath of allegience to the Czecho-

slovak Republic. Entrenched in his new post, Tiso became openly Hitler's tool. In March, 1939, the two contrived a plot whereby Czechoslovakia was to be strangled in a pincer movement of the Nazis and Tiso's stalwarts [the Catholic Hlinka Guards]."

Meanwhile Catholic Emil Hacha, a former State officer in the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, an undisguised reactionary, in 1938 succeeded Dr. Eduard Benes, a liberal and a Protestant, as president of Czechoslovakia. The fate of the country was now sealed. The following spring Tiso attempted a putsch to sever even the nominal connections of Slovakia with Czechoslovakia. He failed, fled to a Jesuit monastery where he was provided with a secret airplane that flew him to Hitler in Berlin. Time magazine of March 20, 1939, said: "Adolf Hitler immediately received him for a 40-minute conference." Before he returned to Slovakia Father Tiso phoned the following Pan-German message to his all-Catholic Parliament: "The return of Czechoslovakia to the German Reich would signify the restoration of ancient historical conditions."

Commenting on events at this point of recent history, Professor Frederick L. Schuman of Williams College has this to say:

"Hitler's abrupt liquidation of Czechoslovakia followed. The technique was a
masterly combination of 'Trojan Horse'
and 'Fifth Column' operations. . . The
Slovak autonomists were led by the Premier, Father Tiso. His regime at Bratislava was already anti-Semitic and totalitarian. . . A private militia, the Hlinka
Guards, was organized and equipped with
German aid. . . On March 6 Hacha dismissed the Ruthenian cabinet and asked
Father Volosin to form a new government." (8)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The Kaiser's Memoirs, autobiography of Kaiser Wilhelm II, p. 211. Translation by Thomas R. Ybarra.

<sup>8</sup> Night Over Europe by Frederick L. Schuman, Woodrow Wilson professor of Government at Williams College. New York, 1941

#### HITLER'S STOOGE

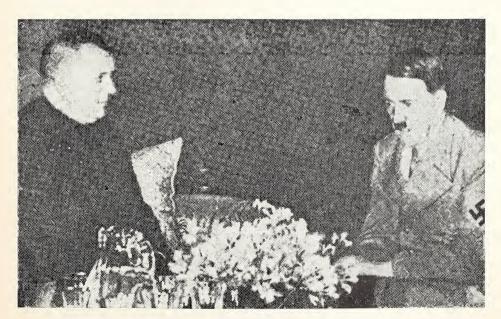
Where you find Catholicism you find persecution of the Jews. It is not surprising then to find that priest-led Slovakia even outdid other Catholic countries like Austria, Poland and Hungary in its persecution of the Jews, for it was more directly dominated by the Vatican. The anti-Semitism of Msgr. Hlinka's Slovak People's Party, which had been held back from open murder of the Jews by the Czechoslovak constitution, rivaled Hitler in sadism as soon as it seized control of Slovakia. Speaking of the Nazification that followed the foundation of Father Tiso's puppet republic, Czechoslovakia, The Unknown Country (p. 92), a semi-official government publication, says:

"The Nuremburg laws were immediately introduced and strictly enforced. All Jewish property was seized . . . A German bill handed to Slovakia alone amounted to more than \$20,000,000 for 'ridding the country of Jews.' This included expenses for deporting 65,000 Jews and settling them in Eastern Poland where they were massacred or put in the gas chambers . . ."

Current Biography (1943) on page 765 states:

"Of 90,000 Slovakian Jews, according to figures released by the United States Department of State, some 70,000 had been deported to East European prison and labor camps, and the remainder were expected to follow."

There is no doubt that practically all the remaining Jews did follow the 70,000 to Poland and to death, except



MSGR. TISO AND HITLER AT THE REICH'S CHANCELLERY IN BERLIN

In its obituary write-up of Hitler on May 2, 1945, the N. Y. 'Times' stated that it was at this meeting, on March 12, 1939, that Czechoslovakia was sold out to Hitler.

five to ten thousand who abjectly became "converts" to Roman Catholicism. Father Tiso was singled out by Hitler himself as the first ruler in Europe who made his country "Judenrein," or Jew-free.

A United Press dispatch from London on June 25, 1942, stated that Tiso boasted that he had purged his country of Jews. It added its own comment that Tiso had "out-Hitlered Hitler" in his brutality. It also told that many of the Jewish minority who had escaped exile fled to Catholic Hungary where "a bigscale racket" of selling baptismal certificates ensued. Explicit mention was made that Catholic priests were directly involved.

How Father Tiso worked essentially in and through the Catholic church is reflected in the fact that he chose Catholic churches as the sounding-board of his anti-Semitism, and Catholic teaching as his guiding light. If what he taught was not sound Catholic doctrine, he would have been suspended by his bishop and excommunicated by the Vatican. As early as September 27, 1940, Father Tiso declared in the Catholic church at Zilina that "Catholicism and National Socialism have much in common.'' The Jewish Telegraphic Agency of August 18, 1942, related how Father Tiso, speaking before a Catholic church audience in Holitch declared that in deporting the Jews "Slovakia is acting in accordance with the Lord God's command." He added: "Slovakia wanted at last to be rid of its eternal enemies and in doing so acted in a primitive Christian way."

Along with anti-Semitism Father Tiso introduced all the other Nazi outrages. They are well summarized in the following excerpt from an article in *Collier's* of January 8, 1944, that treat-

ed of Slovakia:

"The youth of Slovakia seized and marched off to cold and hunger and death... the creation of an Iron Guard to shoot down strikers and saboteurs; the Germanization of the school system; the expropriation of property, the confiscation of grain and foodstuffs, and the dispatch of Slovak youth to the Russian front."

Hitler considered Father Tiso one of his right-hand men who anticipated his every wish. He showed his appreciation and gratitude by showering Tiso with Nazi honors and decorations. Current Biography (p. 765) states: "For his betrayal of the Czechs and the Slovaks, Tiso received the Iron Cross from Hitler on October 25, 1939." The New York Times of March 15, 1943, reported:

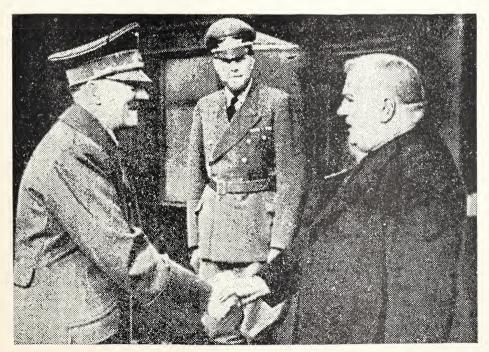
"Reichsfuehrer Hitler has conferred the Gold Grand Cross of the Order of the German Eagle, the highest of the five grades of the decoration for foreigners on Josef Tiso, President of Slovakia. . ."

This series of honors conferred on Tiso throughout the regime of Hitler, as well as innumerable conferences between them, demolish any Catholic argument that Tiso was misled by Hitler or merely gave him a minimum of cooperation. No other puppet leader received such honors. Even after Russian reverses, Hitler and Tiso conferred in April, 1943, at Hitler's headquarters on the eastern front. Right up to the last Tiso, unlike Horthy and other puppet leaders, remained faithful to Hitler and conferred repeatedly with him in Berlin. Since Tiso had always been treacherous to everyone but the Catholic church, it would be difficult to explain his devotion to Hitler except that he saw in him a great defender of Catholicism against the forces of Protestantism and world democracy which the Vatican had denounced for centuries.

Nor in considering Father Tiso should it be overlooked that the honors conferred on Tiso were indirectly honors conferred on the Vatican whom Tiso as a priest necessarily represented. The Vatican rightly understood this and indirectly reciprocated the honors to Hitler by conferring the Order of Pope Pius XII on Mihail Antonescu, Hitler's puppet ruler in Rumania, who was not even a Roman Catholic. The New York Times of July 15, 1943, which reported this fact, emphasized that this Papal honor was "the highest decoration that the Vatican can confer." It paralleled Hitler's highest honor conferred on Tiso four months previously.

#### COLLABORATION OF PIUS XII

Everyone knows that, if the Vatican disapproved of Father Tiso's intimate and whole-hearted cooperation with Nazism, it could have silenced and excommunicated him with all the force of its iron-clad discipline. That the Vatican's approval of Tiso's policy was not merely negative is evidenced by the fact that it was the one who raised him to his position of puppet ruler of Slovakia. Not a word was ever spoken by the Pope against the Nazi terrors practised by this Catholic priest. In fact Slovakia's immunity to criticism was only part of the silent approval given to all Nazi outrages as the New York Times of January 3, 1940, implied when



Reichsfuehrer Hitler greets the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph Tiso, Slovakian Chief of State, Papal Chamberlain and Roman Catholic priest, at Hitler's field headquarters on the Eastern Front, October, 1941.

it spoke apologetically of the studied silence of the Vatican's official newspaper:

"The Osservatore Romano publishes facts of the persecution in Germany and Bohemia-Moravia Protectorate only in rare cases. This is partly the result of the Pope's desire not to exacerbate relations with Germany."

One of the most damaging of the Vatican's approvals of Tiso is that, after he started to betray and Nazify Slovakia, it conferred on him a Right Reverend monsignorship and membership in the Papal household. The exact time of this honor has not been divulged by the Vatican. But Time magazine of November 6, 1939, emphasized that Father Tiso was only a priest, in contrast to Ignaz Seipel of Austria who was a Monsignor. The New York Times, a month earlier, on October 27, 1939, referred to him as "Father Tiso" and quoted Vatican authorities as saying, "he is a mere priest and subject as such to the jurisdiction of his own Bishop of the Bratislava diocese." Sometime therefore in 1940 after Tiso betraved Slovakia and started to Nazify it, he was honored with a Monsignorship by the Vatican. From then on he is referred to no longer as "Father Tiso" but as "Msgr. Tiso," in the few instances where the American press forgot to hide his church affiliation by calling him "Dr. Tiso."

It is no secret that Msgr. Tiso had Vatican support, and could not have stayed in office without it. A Catholic people would not have tolerated an excommunicated priest as president of their country. This is what Andre Visson implied, when on page 174 of his above-quoted book, he says: "The puppet Slovakia with its Clerical Premier, Josef Tiso, who succeeded Msgr. Hlinka, necessarily enjoys the support of the Vatican." This is confirmed in an

article in the Washington Post of February 21, 1943.

In the *Encyclopedia Brittanica* Book of the Year, 1940, the historical fact is recorded as follows:

"Under the leadership of Msgr. Josef Tiso, Slovakia organized a semi-Fascist regime, introducing much of National Socialist (Nazi) legislation, pursuing a strictly anti-Semitic course, but relying on the support of the Catholic Church."

Premier Tuka, Tiso's confident and assistant, was quoted in the New York Times of August 30, 1940, as saying that Slovakia was being ruled by "a combination of German Nazism and Roman Catholicism."

If further confirmation is needed to clinch the Vatican's direct approval of Msgr. Tiso and all he stood for, it can be found in the Catholic press quotation of a Vatican broadcast that was obviously directed to Slovakia itself to strengthen the hands of Tiso. The leading Catholic paper in London, the *Tablet*, in its issue of July 27, 1940, quoted the Vatican broadcast as follows:

"The announcement by Monsignor Tiso, head of the Slovak State, of his intention to reconstruct Slovakia on a Christian plan, is greatly welcomed by the Holy See. The new organization of the State is to be based on the Corporate system [Catholic form of a non-electoral fascist State], on Christian [non-Jewish] lines and modeled on the system which has proved so successful in Portugal... This coming so soon after Marshal Pétain's statement that he intended to reconstruct France on a Christian basis, is doubly welcome."

#### CONCLUSION

Msgr. Tiso was captured by the invading Americans last May, and has since been handed over to the Czechoslovak government in Prague. This was arranged by Vatican authorities in order to prevent his coming up for trial before an international court in London

or Berlin and thus avoid the scandal of it being made known in the American press. In this way Tiso will die as shamefully as he lived, without the American public knowing that he was a Roman Catholic priest and honored prelate who faithfully carried out the orders of his church as the Torquemada of Slovakia. Now that Hitlerism is a lost cause, Tiso has become a liability to the Vatican and the sooner he is dead and forgotten the better for its future plans.

Meanwhile the Vatican goes its way busy mending its fences and hiding behind the mask of democracy, picking up the anti-Bolshevist standard where Hitler dropped it, rallying the forces of reaction against "revolution and Communism," fighting to preserve Fascism in Spain, Portugal and Argentina, planning a Third World War that will defeat Russia and re-establish the long-lost political-religious monopoly of the medieval Roman church. Helping it is the criminal silence of the servile American press.

SPEAKING of the origin of the Roman Papacy, the famous English philosopher, Thomas Hobbes, declared:

"If a man consider the origin of this great ecclesiastical dominion, he will easily perceive that the Papacy is no other than the ghost of the deceased Roman empire, sitting crowned upon the grave thereof. For so did the Papacy start up on a sudden out of the ruins of that heathen power."

## FREEDOM AND THE PROTESTANT ETHIC

ROMAN CATHOLICS are not aware that the great fundamental principles of American freedom—equal rights in a free State, equal privileges in a free church, and equal opportunities in a free school—are the heritage of Protestantism.

Rev. Dr. Alfred G. Walton, speaking recently in the Baptist Church of the Redeemer, Brooklyn, N. Y., stressed this fact as follows:

"The founding of the American Colonies was an outgrowth of the spirit of the Protestant movement which began in the sixteenth century. The Pilgrims and the Puritans who settled in New England laid the foundations of a new freedom and a new government, the spirit of which was rooted in the freedom which they religious sought. Out of that conception came the ideal of democratic government. Protestantism exalted the individual and the individual's right to think for himself and to act for himself.

"Standing for self-government in the Church as over against the government of the State or ecclesiastical authority, there developed the idea of self-government in other fields.

"The whole life of America has been built around this ideal of freedom. It has elaborated itself in a multitude of ways, in freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of the press and freedom of conscience . . . Whenever we acknowledge any form of freedom, we are sharing in the heritage of the Protestant movement."

#### **BOUND VOLUMES FOR 1944**

#### INSIDE FRANCO'S JAILS

RANCO still has 400,000 republican prisoners in miserable concentration camps according to PM of last June 3, although Franco protests that his concentration camps are most "sanitary" and "healthful," and that some of them even have swimming pools! In the same issue of PM, an escaped prisoner from Franco's concentration camps describes some of the conditions there. He wrote under the name of Geza Lustig, in order to save his family in Spain from persecution. "There were no provisions made for anyone who became ill," he says. "Some of us had brought medicines, but they were taken from us and sold back to us at the canteen." Reading was forbidden and the only source of information was the Fascist weekly newspaper for prisoners called Redencion ("Redemption"). "It was full of Fascist propaganda," he says, "playing up German successes and saying not a word about the Allies "

The main objective of Franco's concentration camps seems to be to make all the prisoners Roman Catholics, whether they like it or not. The author tells us:

"As part of our schedule, we were forced to attend two religious services weekly, a sermon on Thursday morning and mass on Sunday, conducted by a Catholic priest. The services were held in a hall in the center of the prison, and all of us—Catholics and non-Catholics—had to stand for two solid hours. The sermons were always the same. We were told that we were suffering for sins which we had committed in abandoning God."

The UNCIO has courageously slammed the door in Franco's face, and we believe that were it not for fear of the Catholic church some real punitive ac-

tion would be taken against his Fascist regime which still remains abhorrent to all liberty-loving people. But Franco pays the priests well for the protection given him by the Catholic church throughout the world. The Catholic Register of last May 25 admits that the economic status of the priests in Spain has been vastly improved of late. Franco's Fascist government has increased its payments to the church from 64 million pesetas in 1931 to 126 million pesetas in 1945. This increase has been specially for extra salaries for the priests. Besides this, the government has expended 800 million pesetas up to last year for the restoration of church properties damaged during Franco's War, and has alloted 58 million more for this purpose in the current year of 1945. Priests also benefit from a special social security system paid for by the government.

## **About Books**

AMONG the many errors taught to the Roman Catholic people is the old falsehood that Freemasonry is the work of the devil, with the object of disrupting society and undermining the State. The Roman Catholic people can hardly be blamed for this, since it has been the official teaching of their Popes ever since Pope Clement XII in 1738 opened the campaign of persecution against Masonry as a depraved heresy. Later, this Papal crusade against Freemasonry was linked together with a similar campaign against the Jews. From then on it was declared that Freemasonry was controlled by Jews, that both Masons and Jews were leagued together against Christianity to destroy it and to control the finance of the world. Fascism and Nazism took over the crusade in our day and built their regimes upon it.

The surprising fact revealed in this authoritative book by H. L. Haywood is that Freemasonry has never entered into any controversy or conflict with the Roman Catholic church. As a result of the condemnations of Freemasonry by the Popes (there have been 17 of them, from Pope Clement XII to Pope Leo XIII), Roman Catholics have been obliged to renounce their membership in Masonic Lodges—tens of thousands of them even in Ireland, according to the author. Masonry let them go without protest, and regarded the Papal anathemas as a matter of concern solely for Roman Catholics. From its beginnings in the Middle Ages, as this author reminds us, Freemasonry has abided by its fundamental principle "which forbids its Lodges and their members to interfere with churches, governments, or with other societies, to discuss them or their affairs, or to take official action concerning them."

A study of Freemasonry and Roman Catholicism, therefore, as the author correctly states, must of necessity be one-sided, namely, to discover the attitude of the Roman Catholic church toward Freemasonry and the real reasons for the Popes' violent condemnations of it. This book, therefore, is a strictly objective, factual exposition of the Roman Catholic church's hostility toward Masonry. That hostility is not, as deluded Catholics are led to believe, because the church of Rome fears Masonry as a threat to the Christian religion. The church of Rome has feared and persecuted Freemasons for the same reason that the Fascist dictators feared and persecuted thembecause Freemasonry has been the instigator and constant advocate of democratic freedoms and representative government.

It fathered our American constitutional government and was the "underground" movement of most of the popular revolutionary movements of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Pope Leo XIII summed up all previous condemnations of Freemasonry in his Encyclical Humanum Genus, in which he clearly shows that it is for political, not religious reasons that the church condemns Freemasonry. The reasons he gives are as follows:

"They teach that all men have the same rights . . . that every man is naturally free; that it is tyranny to keep men subject to any other authority than that which emanates from themselves. Hence, they hold that the people are

sovereign, that those who rule have no authority except by the commission and concession of the people... They hold that the State must not be united to religion, that there is no reason why one religion should be preferred to another, and that all must be held in the same esteem."

The author quotes this Encyclical in full, with the reply to Leo XIII by Grand Commander Albert Pike, as well as the first condemnation of Freemasonry by Pope Clement XII in 1738. It would take a much larger volume to reproduce all the other Papal Bulls and Encyclicals against Freemasonry. Thus collected, however, they would make an excellent companion-volume to Hitler's Mein Kampf, which is largely a rehash of all that the Popes of Rome have fulminated against democratic freedoms for the past two hundred years.

Freemasonry and Roman Catholicism stresses the fact that Freemasonry has faithfully lived up to its basic principle of not interfering with or criticizing any religion, not even the Roman Catholic church, despite the deliberate plan of persecution against Masons in all countries carried out by the Popes of Rome. Murder and imprisonment of Freemasons under the Fascist dictators in Italy, Germany, Spain and elsewhere have been a part of this Papal pattern—solely because Freemasonry is the outstanding champion of democratic freedoms. We are inclined to think, however, that Freemasonry might have done better to develop some "teeth" to help resist in a positive way the ancient enemy of democracy and Protestant Christianity.

"Whatsoever things you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them."—Mark 11:24.

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#### THANKS!

WE ARE GRATEFUL for the following unsolicited testimony in our favor which was published in *The Lutheran Witness* of June 5, 1945:

"Questions reach us as to the reliability of 'The Converted Catholic Magazine,' published at 229 West 48th Street, New York, N. Y. This magazine may be regarded as trustworthy in every respect, its articles scholarly and factual."

## THE PASSING SHOW

#### P. J. WHELAN

- ▶ 'ECCLESIA PLANTANDA,' Lutheran magazine for May, 1945, recounts two samples of the large number of Roman Catholics who become Lutherans. At Calvary Church, Two Rivers, Wis., seven out of nine members recently confirmed were formerly Roman Catholics. At Trinity Mission in Clairton, Pa., eight of the twenty-seven new members received into the church during the last quarter were former Roman Catholics.
- ► FRITZ THYSSEN, the multi-millionaire Catholic industrialist who helped to finance Hitler (see his book, I Paid Hitler), has been spouting to our newspaper correspondents in Europe about the virtues of Nazism while trying to defend his part in building it up financially. "I was of the opinion that at first the policy of Hitler was not so bad at all," he told Edd Johnson reporting to the Chicago Sun of May 17. "He came under the influence of bad men in his party," he continued. Thyssen still believes in and hopes for an authoritarian regime for Germany. "I personally believe the German people are not ready for democracy," was the conclusion of his interview with the above correspondent.
- ▶ THE CATHOLIC PEOPLE of Austria are fighting Russian occupation forces and defending the record of support given to the Nazis by Cardinal Innitzer, Archbishop of Vienna and Primate of Austria, according to the Catholic *Register* of last June 3.
- ▶ HITLER'S AMBASSADOR to the Pope, Baron Ernst von Weisaecker, has remained as a 'refugee' in the Vatican, according to the Catholic 'Register' of June 3. With him is also Leon Berard, Marshal Pétain's ambassador to the Vatican. Many members of Mussolini's Fascist regime are also hiding in Vatican City. The excuse given by the 'Register' for the retention in the Vatican of Hitler's Ambassador to the Pope is that "the Apostolic Nuncio to Berlin has not been recalled."

- ► A GROUP of more than 100 Falangist (Fascist) youths, on their way to attend a memorial mass for Hitler and Mussolini at the Carmelite Church in Barcelona, Spain, on June 15, overthrew newsstands where the U. S. magazine "Victory" was on sale, according to the N. Y. 'Times' of June 17. They smashed display signs at the Savoy cinema which was showing newsreels of victory rejoicing in London. A Japanese was amongst them, and they rallied around him shouting: "Let's smash the place where they are showing pictures of the killing of our Japanese brothers!"
- ► AN OBVIOUS ATTEMPT to 'railroad' a Washington, D. C. priest into a mental hospital to prevent his leaving the church, was revealed in the Washington Times-Herald of last June 10. The 33-year-old priest, Father Francis E. Sullivan, 'had been incarcerated in Gallinger Hospital by his mother," according to his attorney, T. Emmett McKenzie, who subpoenaed Attorney General Biddle, U. S. Commissioner Needham C. Turnage, District Attorney Edward Curran and the entire membership of the District Committees of both Houses of Congress to appear at the priest's sanity hearing, in order, as he declared, that "everyone will know what's going on here."
- ▶ THE MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE has passed Chapter No. 419, which redefines "Bingo" and says it is not gambling: "Providing that such game is conducted by a religious, charitable, fraternal or other association not organized for pecuniary protection." One member of the legislature said he voted for the bill because he didn't want to "antagonize the priests in his district."
- ▶ EMIL LUDWIG (in the Philadelphia 'Record' May 21, 1945), reporting an interview with Archbishop Kolb of Bamberg, Germany, said he asked him: "Did you think it was right when the late Pope Pius XI made his concordat with Hitler in 1933, thus giving him moral aid?" The Archbishop answered: "The Pope's decisions were not for me to criticize." Concerning Nazi atrocities, the Archbishop said: "I don't know anything about Buchenwald, but, in the concentration camps of Dachau, the story of brutalities was exaggerated."

- ► METHODIST BISHOP G. BROMLEY OXNAM, president of the Federal Council of Churches publicly charged on June 22, that the Roman Catholic church is intolerant to Protestants in European countries where it is dominant, according to the N. Y. 'Herald Tribune' of June 23. He had just returned from an extended tour abroad. "In countries in which the Roman Catholic church has a strong majority," he declared, "full religious liberty is denied to minority groups." He said that American Protestant chaplains in Europe were "sorely troubled" to discover this intolerance of the Roman church. He predicted, however, that the power of the Roman church was declining in Europe, and that "the Protestant and Eastern Orthodox faiths would in a large measure determine the course of the next century."
- ► AT THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY of the Presbyterian church USA, held at Montreat, N. C., last May 24, it was proposed "To prohibit Presbyterians from marrying non-Protestants, specifically Roman Catholics, except upon the signing of a premarital agreement that any children of the marriage would be reared as Presbyterians." The Assembly also condemned the presence of Myron C. Taylor as Ambassador at the Vatican.
- ► PATRIARCH ALEXEI of Moscow, accompanied by Metropolitan Nicolai and ten other high Russian church dignitaries, received a colorful welcome on a pilgrimage to the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem last May 31. According to a report of the occurrence in the N. Y. Times of that date, this was the first time in centuries that a Russian Patriarch has visited foreign countries and is significant of the growing prestige of Russia and the resurgent Orthodox church. The party also visited the Greek Orthodox Patriarchs of the ancient sees of Alexandria, Jerusalem, and Antioch, Rome is watching with jealous eyes this growing prestige of its ancient rival, the Orthodox church.
- ► FRIEDRICH SCHAEFFER, Catholic rightist and avowed friend of former Austrian premiers Dollfuss and Schuschnigg, was appointed last June 1, as the first post-war President of Bavaria by Colonel Chas. E. Keegan, former New

- York City councilman, and now regional military governor of Bavaria.
- ► KING LEOPOLD of Belgium's return was regarded as "not only improbable but impossible," according to a report from Brussels in the N. Y. Times of June 28, because of a letter he had published in January 1941, in which he said: "The destiny of our country is linked with that of the Continent, and our prosperity is tied to that of central Europe. In choosing Germany, we choose Europe."
- ▶ BITTER RIOTING broke out in Dublin (Eire) after the Allied victory in Europe was announced, according to a dispatch to the N. Y. 'Times' of May 13. Windows of the U. S. Consul's office and that of the British representative were smashed and many persons were injured and many others arrested.
- ▶ DURING a requiem mass for the soul of Benito Mussolini at the Catholic Temple of National Gratitude in Santiago, Chile, last May 13, anti-Fascist protests were made outside the church. According to the New York *Times* of that date, many of those who attended gave the Fascist salute.
- ▶ GENERAL DE GAULLE, though a devout Catholic, refused to attend services in Notre Dame Cathedral in honor of Joan of Arc last May 13. The reason given in a dispatch to the N. Y. *Times* of that date was the popular indignation expressed against De Gaulle's meeting with Cardinal Suhard, Archbishop of Paris, "after the 'scandalous' part Cardinal Suhard played during the German occupation."
- ▶ JAMES F. BYRNES, our new Secretary of State, is of Irish parentage and was formerly a Roman Catholic but became a Presbyterian at the age of 27. For this reason, the Catholic Democratic bosses persuaded President Roosevelt to turn thumbs down on his candidacy for the Vice-Presidency at the Democratic National Convention last year, as well as his selection as Secretary of State to succeed Cordell Hull. Mr. Byrnes is widely regarded as well qualified to fill his new office, and under him, according to 'Time' magazine for July 9, U. S. foreign policy "will be carried out by a better-oiled and organized machine than that which operated under Cordell Hull and Ed Stettinius."

- ▶ IT WAS GOOD to read an editorial in the Louisville *Courier Journal* of May 3 denouncing "Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen's war on Russia." After listing how wrong Msgr. Sheen's vitriolic pronouncements against Russia have been while defending Fascism in Spain and Argentina, the editorial truly and bravely declares: "His danger to hopes of a really just and worthy peace is, in our opinion, the intellectual dishonesty which cloaks his personal prejudice with the garment of faith and morals."
- ▶ THERE are now only 42 cardinals of the Roman church. Of these, 26 are Italians and the remaining 16 of various other nationalities. The only one in the United States is Cardinal Dougherty, of Philadelphia. The Vatican never lets the number of Italian cardinals fall below a clear-cut majority of the whole College of Cardinals. This assures that "the next Pope" will always be an Italian.
- ► SUPREME COURT JUSTICE Hugo Black, rendering decision in the case of the Associated Press on June 19, 1945, stressed the fact that:
  - "The widest possible dissemination of information from diverse and antagonistic sources is essential to the welfare of the public."
- ▶ VICTOR F. RIDDER, editor of the N. Y. Staats-Zeitung. was recently ordered to pay \$100,000 damages in a libel suit brought against him by Friedrich W. Foerster, anti-Nazi fighter against Ridder's pan-Germanism. Ridder's family publishes the New York Catholic News, official newspaper of the archdiocese of New York which is published from the same address, 22 North William Street, New York, as the Staats-Zeitung. The fine was later reduced to \$50,000.
- ▶ THE JESUITS conferred an honorary degree of doctor of laws last June on Prince Abdul Ilab, heir to the throne of Iraq, "in recognition of the close ties that have existed between Iraq and the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) for the past 14 years." The Vatican sent Jesuit Father Edmund A. Walsh to Bagdad in 1931 on a special mission to found a Jesuit college there.

- ▶ THE POPE was planning to appoint a Vatican prelate as ecclesiastic high commissioner to the American, British and French occupation zones in Germany, according to a dispatch from Rome to the N. Y. 'Times' last June 10.
- ▶ IN WASHINGTON last June 12, Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau declared that in the future "loans will be made by banking experts on the basis of a nation's economic needs and without any political consideration." Economic sanctions against Fascist countries are thus already a thing of the past. To illustrate his point, Secretary Morgenthau, who was speaking before the Senate Banking Committee, said that, for example, "If Argentina wanted a loan, its would be granted only on the basis of its economic need, and would not be turned down for its political ideology."
- ▶ ITALY'S DEPUTY PREMIER, Palmiro Togliatti, according to a R.N.S. report from Rome published in *The Protestant Voice* of May 11, accused the Catholic church of "interfering" in national politics, in a speech before the Communist Party convention. Referring to the Jesuit "conservative, reactionary faction which is fighting openly against us," Togliatti warned "the heads of the Catholic church" that "it would be fatal for Italy to reopen the religious struggle here today."
- ▶ THE HUE AND CRY in the Catholic press for immediate war against Russia increased in intensity after V-E Day. The N. Y. Sun of June 4 reported Edward T. McCaffrey, national commander of the Catholic War Veterans, as stating that "American military leaders forsee as imminent an open clash with Soviet Russia.
- ▶ BISHOP FRANCIS HODUR, head of the Polish National Catholic Church, officiated at special services for Poland in the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York last July 1. The Polish National Catholic Church was founded in 1904 as a Catholic separatist movement from Rome, and has now 160 parishes in the United States and before the war had 60 in Poland where its priests and bishops suffered greatly under Nazi occupation.

## THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG

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—Alexander L. Miyat, pastor, Presbyterian Church, Greenwood, Ind.

SUNDAY MEETINGS at Christ's Mission, which are held every Sunday at 3:30 P.M. in the auditorium at 229 West 48th Street, will be resumed in September under the directorship of Rev. A. Caliandro. Topics of interest on the Roman Catholic question are discussed at these meetings, and the needs of all our readers remembered in prayer.

## CLERICAL-FASCIST BETRAYAL OF FRANCE

CONFIRMATION of our factual material on Jesuit-stooge General Weygand as leader in the plot that betrayed France, is now had from the testimony of Paul Reynard, former Premier of France, in his Memoirs published in the N. Y. Times (July 25, 1945), and at the trial of Marshal Pétain. "Gen. Maxime Weygand," he says, was "chief conspirator with Pétain in the intrigues that brought about the fall of my Government and the surrender of France."

The full story of Weygand and Pétain may be seen in our pamphlets: "The Clerical-Fascist Betrayal of France," and "Vatican Policy in the Second World War," listed on the back covers of this magazine.

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